



WEEKLY REPORT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2004

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COMMITTEE STUDIES HOW TO MAKE STATE GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT THROUGH PRIVATIZATION

I have been involved in government at the national, state and local levels and I witnessed first-hand just how inefficiently it frequently operates. I am currently chairing the Subcommittee on Privatization and Competition with the Joint Committee on Legislative Research, which has been charged with investigating ways to reduce costs in state government and increase the quality of services to citizens by utilizing private resources within certain aspects of state government.

One of the most significant features of this committee is that it includes both lawmakers and private citizens. There are four members from the Senate, four from the House of Representatives, and eight from private industry.

The idea of privatization – the transfer of services or assets from government to private firms – has been around since the 1960s.

Privatization is an excellent way to cut costs and avoid raising taxes.

Colorado, Virginia and Pennsylvania are among the states that have successfully implemented privatization.

Objectives of the committee include:

- Successfully working in a bipartisan manner in which trust and information is shared by all branches of state government.
- Begin to identify opportunities for privatization statewide.
- Further establish an organizational and analytical structure to implement the privatization effort. Identify current and new legislation that could be modified or enacted to best increase efficiencies in state government.
- Evaluate structural and other barriers to change and ways to overcome them.

- Develop a set of processes that agencies could adopt.
- Utilize outside resources by systematically studying options and strategies in the workings of the committee.

The first committee meeting was held last October, and another was held this week at the State Capitol. We plan further meetings throughout the state with the next planned for Kansas City in June.

Obviously privatization won't be accomplished overnight; it will take time and hard work. In the end, though, I believe the move will make state government both more efficient and more cost-effective.

If you would like more information on Missouri's efforts to privatize, I encourage you to look at the committee's website located at www.showmecompetition.org.

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